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ABSTRACT

This book explores strategies for building up a repertoire of techniques that allow teachers to develop effective explanatory skills. Though it focuses on elementary teachers, many strategies are appropriate for secondary teachers. The book uses a mixture of activities, discussion points, and classroom-based findings that have been proven successful. Six units focus on: (1) "What is Explaining?" (main features of explanations and students' perspectives); (2) "Strategies of Explanation" (different approaches and broad strategies); (3) "Analyzing Explanations" (qualitative and quantitative analysis, levels and types of thinking, students explaining, and using schedules); (4) "Knowing the Subject Matter" (mastering subject matter, explaining concepts, written explanations, and coping strategies); (5) "Effective Explaining" (main features of effective explaining, students' perspectives, discovering versus being told, and effecting creativity); and (6) "Feedback" (evaluating explanations and general feedback). (Contains 20 references.) (SM)

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